Message Text

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R 210742Z JUL 76 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8563 USDEL MTN GENEVA AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 5242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PGOV, CIEC, AS

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC TOPICS IN PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSION WITH

PRESIDENT

- 1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED ECONOMIC TOPICS CONTAINED IN GOA LIST OF DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE CONTACTS IN VARIOUS GOA DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, IN ATTEMPT TO LEARN WHAT EMPHASIS PRIME MINISTER LIKELY TO PLACE ON VARIOUS ITEMS, AND ANY SPECIAL PROPOSALS HE MIGHT MAKE.
- 2. WHILE REPLIES WE HAVE OBTAINED ARE GUARDED AND RATHER TENTATIVE, WE ARE PASSING THEM ALONG FOR SUCH VALUE AS THEY MAY HAVE IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE THE PRIME MINISTER
- 3. BEEF, DAIRY PRODUCTS AND WOOL -- PRIME MINISTER WILL PROBABLY TOUCH ON THESE PRODUCTS, WITH EMPHASIS AND IMPORTANCE ROUGHLY IN DESCENDING ORDER OF THIS SEQUENCE. OUR CONTACTS THINK IT PROBABLE THAT ON BEEF HE WILL EXPRESS HOPE FOR AN EARLY SOLUTION TO THE OUTSTANDING STATISTICAL PROBLEM OF CALCULATING IMPORTS, REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S. BEEF MARKET TO AUSTRALIA AND NOTE THAT AUSTRALIA ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO RESTORATION OF UNLIMITED IMPORT SITUATION. IN THE CASE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS, HE WILL PROBABLY ALLUDE TO THE RECENT CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSIONS IN CANBERRA WITH SECRETARY BUTZ, AND REPEAT

AUSTRALIA'S STRONG HOPES FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE U.S. MARKET. HIS REFERENCE TO WOOL WILL PROBABLY RECALL AUSTRALIA'S LONG-STANDING AND CONTINUING HOPE THAT SOME CONCESSION IN THE U.S. TARIFF ON WOOL MAY BE REACHED IN THE CURRENT MTN NEGOTIATIONS.

- 4. CIEC -- INCLUSION OF CIEC IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S LIST OF TOPICS APPEARS NOT TO HAVE ANY SPECIAL RELATION TO THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE RECENT CIEC MEETING, NOTWITHSTANDING GOA CONCERN OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS, BUT IS RATHER THE BASIS FOR A GENERAL AFFIRMATION OF GOA INTEREST IN CIEC PROGRESS AND A POSSIBLE INQUIRY CONCERNING THE OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING YEAR.
- 5. ROLE OF ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETINGS -- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INCLUSION OF THIS TOPIC REFLECTS JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SUGGESTIONS TO THE GOA THAT THE GOJ WOULD WELCOME AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE SUMMIT MEETINGS. THE UNSOLICITED GOJ SUGGESTION, MADE IN THE RECENT MIKI-FRASER DISCUSSIONS IN TOKYO, APPARENTLY ALSO TOUCHED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING IN TOKYO, AT WHICH IN THE GOJ VIEW AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT GOA POSITION ON MATTER IS THAT AUSTRALIA DOES NOT WISH TO SOLICIT ITS INCLUSION, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IF REQUESTED. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR JUST HOW PRIME MINISTER PROPOSES TO APPROACH THIS SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON. PERCIVAL

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